

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Disclosed is a method of producing a pressurized stream of substantially inert gas. The method comprises collecting at least a portion of the exhaust gases from an internal combustion engine. The collected exhaust gases are directed into the intake of a compressor which compresses the exhaust gases such that the exhaust gases exit the compressor at a pressure that is above atmospheric pressure. A portion of the
10 compressed exhaust gases are re-circulated back into the intake of the compressor. The re-circulated portion of the compressed exhaust gases are of a sufficient volume to maintain the pressure within the compressor intake above atmospheric pressure and to thereby prevent atmospheric gases from being drawn into the intake of the compressor and into the stream of substantially inert gas.

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